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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 DEAE-00 RSC-01 /044 R

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OPS/TSD - R. HALL (DRAFT)
DEA - J. STRICKLER (INFO)
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S/NM - D. COHEN
---------- 120153
P 192215Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: FORWARD BASES-PROPOSED VISIT BY USG TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS
REF: A. MEXICO 4359
B. STATE 119661
C. MEXICO 5109

1. PROPOSED FORWARD BASES PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO 1975 MEXICAN POPPY ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. DEPARTMENT IS ANXIOUS THEREFORE TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY TOWARDS COMPLETING DETAILED OPERATIONS PLANS, FOLLOWED UP BY EXPEDITIOUS PROCUREMENT AND ACTUAL PHYSICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF BASES, IN ORDER TO HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT DURING SPRING CAMPAIGN BEGINNING JANUARY 1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THOROUGH JOB GOM HAS DONE IN PREPARING LIST OF REQUIREMENTS AND IS AWARE THAT NO ONE CAN BE AS FAMILIAR WITH REALITIES OF THEIR SITUATION AS THE MEXICANS.
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NONETHELESS, IN CONSIDERING THE GOM'S REQUIREMENTS LIST,

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DEPARTMENT NEEDS DETAILED INFORMATION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED ABOUT GOM'S CONCEPT AND OPERATING PLAN FOR FORWARD BASES PROJECT.

2. A BRIEF OUTLINE OF KIND OF TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH NEED TO BE EXPLORED IN DETAIL IN CONSULTATION WITH

MEXICAN AUTHORITIES FOLLOWS:

A) CONCEPT OF THE MISSION - DEFINITION OF AREA OF OPERATIONS, ESTIMATED ACREAGE TO BE DESTROYED AND TIMETABLE, PERSONNEL AND CARGO LIFT REQUIREMENTS.

B) OPERATIONS PLAN - CONDITIONS AND FACILITIES IN AREA OF OPERATIONS, DEFINITION OF FORWARD BASE MODULE AND ERADICATION TEAM MODULE, GROUND FORCES OPERATIONS PLAN, NUMBER AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT TO BE USED IN PROGRAM, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY RATE, SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED AIRCREWS AND GROUND SUPPORT PERSONNEL (MECHANICS, ETC.) BY TYPE AIRCRAFT, OPERATIONS COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS, ADEQUACY OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR SPARE PARTS, POL, AND PERSONNEL, COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AVIATION OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY, NATURE AND ADEQUACY OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR AIR-TO-GROUND, GROUND-TO-GROUND, AND INTERFACING ARMY-MFJP.

C) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT IMPINGE DIRECTLY ON FORWARD BASE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION - AIRCRAFT OPERATIONAL READINESS RATE, MEXICAN ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT, NATURE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM, CIVIL AND/OR MILITARY AVIATION REGULATIONS WHICH SET PARAMETERS FOR HELI-BORNE OPERATIONS, BUDGETARY PROCESS, FLOW TIMES FOR AIRCRAFT COMPONENT AND AIRFRAME OVERHAUL, RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADDITIONAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEXICAN PILOTS AND MECHANICS BY TYPE OF AIRCRAFT, RECOMMENDATIONS ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL, AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FUTURE PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED MATERIEL REQUIREMENTS. THIS LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

WOULD INCLUDE CONSULTATIONS ON 1) DESIRABILITY OF PROCURING STOL VERSUS OTHER AIRCRAFT, AND 2) MEXICAN PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT FOR AN EXPANDED ERADICATION EFFORT.

3. ALTHOUGH RELUCTANT TO PROPOSE ANOTHER STUDY MISSION, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT COMPLICATED TECHNICAL NATURE OF INFORMATION REQUIRED WARRANTS VISIT BY INTERAGENCY TEAM

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(DEA-STATE-AID) OF PERSONNEL WITH EXPERTISE IN AVIATION OPERATIONS, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, POPPY ERADICATION AND PROGRAM PLANNING. TEAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO CALL ON MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OR HIS DESIGNATE IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AND WOULD CONSULT WITH AG STAFF PERSONNEL IN CHARGE OF AVIATION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPLY, TECH REPS OF BELL AND PRATT AND WHITNEY, AND U.S. ARMY

ATTACHE. IF FEASIBLE, TEAM MIGHT ALSO CONSULT WITH MEXICAN ARMY COMMANDERS INVOLVED IN ERADICATION EFFORT. THERE WOULD BE CLOSE LIAISON WITH DEA REGIONAL OFFICE. A FEW TEAM MEMBERS WOULD NEED TO VISIT EXISTING HELI-COPTER SUPPORT FACILITIES AND PROPOSED FORWARD BASE SITES, AND OVERFLY INTENDED TARGET POPPY AREAS. TEAM WOULD REMAIN IN MEXICO APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS.

4. PROPOSED VISIT WOULD COMMENCE ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 26. IF THIS TIMING FEASIBLE FOR EMBASSY AND GOM, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ASAP. PLEASE REPEAT REPLY TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK SLUGGED FOR ATTENTION R. HALL, C/O AID MISSION DIRECTOR. KISSINGER

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